

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 119925
ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-13 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
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DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:MHORNBLOW:SO
APPROVED BY P - AMBASSADOR NEWSOM
NEA/IRN:MGREENE
NSC:TTHORTON
NEA:AMB. CRAWFORD

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O 110404Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 119925

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF AFGHAN SITUATION WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER KHALATBARI

REF: (A) TEHRAN 4356 (B) STATE 118510

1. REF (B) WHICH WAS PREPARED FOR AMBASSADOR SPIERS FOR
USE AT CENTO MEETING PROVIDES OUR CURRENT PRELIMINARY
ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND OUR PRELIMI-
NARY ESTIMATE OF CURRENT SOVIET INTENTIONS. SUGGEST YOU
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PAGE 02 STATE 119925

SHARE THESE ASSESSMENTS ORALLY WITH KHALATBARI WHILE
STRESSING THAT THEY REPRESENT ONLY OUR PRELIMINARY CON-
CLUSIONS AND ASSURE HIM THAT WE WISH TO CONTINUE CLOSE
CONSULTATIONS AS THE SITUATION EVOLVES.
2. WITH REGARD TO POINT (C) - ACTIONS TO PREVENT FURTHER
SOVIET EXPLOITATION OF SITUATION - WE AGREE WITH POSITION
YOU TOOK IN PARAGRAPH 6 OF REF A. YOU MAY FURTHER ADVISE

KHALATBARI THAT AT THIS EARLY STAGE WE ARE TRYING TO KEEP OUR OPTIONS OPEN IN AFGHANISTAN AND NOT MAKE ANY PREMATURE DECISIONS OR STATEMENTS WHICH COULD PREJUDICE OUR POSITION EITHER WAY. WE BELIEVE THE WORST THING THAT WE COULD DO AT THE MOMENT IS "TO WRITE OFF AFGHANISTAN". THE NEW LEADERSHIP PROFESSES ITS INTENTION TO REMAIN NON-

ALIGNED AND AT THIS STAGE WE THINK IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO TAKE THEM AT THEIR WORD. TO THE EXTENT THAT THERE MAY BE A SIGNIFICANT NATIONALIST COMPONENT IN THE NEW REGIME, WE SHOULD PROVIDE THEM WITH ALTERNATIVES TO EXCLUSIVE RELIANCE ON THE SOVIETS. WE WOULD ALSO HOPE THAT NONE OF US WOULD TAKE ANY ACTIONS WHICH WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF PUSHING THE AFGHANS FURTHER INTO THE SOVIET EMBRACE.

3. REGARDING POINT (D) "ACTIONS US WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT, BOTH IN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN" YOU MAY ADVISE KHALATBARI THAT WE HOPE TO CONTINUE OUR CURRENT ACTIVITIES, ASSUMING OF COURSE THAT THE NEW REGIME CREATES CONDITIONS WHICH PERMIT US TO DO SO. WE WILL WANT TO KEEP IN VERY CLOSE CONTACT WITH GOI ON ENTIRE RANGE OF AFGHAN DEVELOPMENTS OVER COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS. ON PAKISTAN YOU TOOK EXACTLY RIGHT POSITION IN PARAGRAPH 7 OF REFTTEL (A) AND WE HAVE NOTHING FURTHER TO ADD.

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PAGE 03 STATE 119925

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